

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "William R. Colbert" <v31xe@dzdn.com>

Subject: [7623] "F" beacon on 7.039

Message-ID: <32CA017B.DB7@dzdn.com>

I have posted this information several times in the recent past, but there is a lot of new people recently, so again is the info I got from the World Utility Net list (WUN@grove.net). The F beacons are believed to be run by the Russian Navy Department, (used to be Soviet Navy) even tho they appear to be inland. The beacons (several) are located at or near Moscow, Vladivostok and (I think) Irkutsk. There are other beacons (C, K, L, etc) operating in different areas of the spectrum. The F Beacon was DF'ed a few years ago by the FCC (when they were doing interference complaints, etc) and the above locations were noted at that time. I suspect that their function is similar to the ionospheric sounder signals you currently hear going thru the ham bands and other ranges, sort of like a loose vfo usually going upward, but also going downward in frequency after it reaches the end of the programmed search range. Those by the way are in the 10-25 watt range and are computer controlled.

There have been some articles written in the Monitoring Times magazine about the Single Letter Beacons(SLB) and recent e-mail exchanges with Larry van Horn indicate that possibly more information will be available, maybe on the Grove webpage, WUN webpage or in the form of additional articles. I hope this information is helpful.

Happy New Year/Happy Hogmanay to all.

Ray

72/73, Ray Colbert, W5XE, SOWP 1064M

(also af852@rgfn.epcc.edu)

El Paso, Texas

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Richard Wilkerson <richqrp@pacbell.net>

Subject: [7679] 20 mtrs

Message-ID: <32CAE158.5105@pacbell.net>

I have been on since 1900hrs. very bad. was looking for Ken N4SO did hear him 2025 hrs. on 14.054, but not enough juice here to get there? 73's rich.

--

Rich Wilkerson WD6FDD, Santee, Ca.

NorCal, ARCI, Qrp-L, ECRA
scQRPions

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Doug Hendricks <ki6ds@telis.org>
Subject: [7629] 38 Special Report
Message-ID: <32CA1306.27CE@telis.org>

Guys, I thought I would bring you up to date on the progress of the 38 Special. Jim Cates was here today, he drove 150 miles to help me kit 200 more kits, and he took the 200 that I have done, plus the 200 that we did today, and has them in Sacramento. All that he needs to start shipping are the boards and manuals.

I talked with the board house yesterday. The boards are in the imaging stage, and will be ready for delivery to us on Tuesday, Jan. 7th. We will build a couple of boards to make sure that they are ok, and then as soon as Preston Douglas finishes testing the manual, we will start shipping. I am writing the manual this week, and should have it finished for Preston's proofing by Friday. I will ship Preston a manual and kit of parts via overnight mail Friday, and then when the boards come, will overnight one to him. He will build the kit, and then offer hints and improvements to the manual. I will update the manual, and we should start shipping by the 15th or so, IF and notice the caps, IF all goes well.

Special thanks to Paul Harden for doing the extensive testing of the prototype board. We got just about the same results on the mds and 2nd harmonic suppression, but wanted an independent source to verify them for us. We were not surprised at the figures, actually quite pleased with them, as I hope you are too. Really amazing what you can do with a \$25 kit. (Jim swears that I made a mistake in pricing this one.)

The interesting thing is that we have 430 orders and the article in QQ and QRPP has not even really hit the streets. The first run of 500 kits will be gone very quickly. But don't despair. As soon as we verify the board, we will be ordering another run of 500 boards. If you happen to see Chuck Adams, the reason for the big smile on his face is the sudden population explosion coming on 30 meters.

Again, thanks to Ori, Dave, Jim, Paul, Alan, Preston, Jeff and all the others who have helped with this project. Sure is going to be fun building these kits.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: GREGOIRE@ENDOR.COM (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [7655] absolutely the final xmas fox report
Message-ID: <199701011644.LAA53426@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Hello Gang,
I have changed some NR's ,and filled in some missing data, mostly
due to operator error,mine.

On December 24,1996 I logged the following stations.

Time	Call	RST	State	Name	NR	
0100	WA9PWP	579	WI	PAUL	127	
0103	N5ET	559	TX	BOB	124	
0105	W2NRA	569	NY	ART	524	
0110	AE4IC	579	NC	BOB	54	
0013	K5RV	579	LA	BRIAN	324	
0120	N6MM	569	CA	HARVEY	418	
0123	W6ZH	569	CA	PETE	257	CORRECTED W6ZS TO W6ZH
0125	KE4YH	559	FL	STEW	590	
0128	K5ZTY	449	TX	BILL	473	
0133	AA0XI	559	CO	MARSHALL	153	
0137	NN9K	599	IL	PETER	05	
0138	NI0A	339	MN	JOHN	689	
0142	WA1VPB	449	NC	JOHN	5W	
0144	AE4VQ	579	KY	SCOTT	418	
0150	KE5TF	579	TX	LINDA	5W	
0153	W5XE	559	TX	RAY	256	
0156	K10J	579	TX	OJ	732	
0201	AA2WJ	229	TX	DICK	5W	
0207	NQ7X	339	AZ	FLOYD	343	
0210	W9DZ	589	IN	ALLEN	112	
0215	W5TFB	569	TX	JACK	282	
0219	KK7BD	229	AZ	DAN	696	
0222	WB9LKC	229	WI	RAY	86	
0229	KB9IUA	229	IL	KEVIN	384	
0234	AB5UA	229	OK	CLIFF	476	
0238	W5FN	229	TX	TIM	589	
0246	N4SO	449	AL	KEN	622	
0249	KF8EE	579	OH	TED	302	
0254	AB5OU	449	NM	TIM	73	
0259	K0EVZ	229	MN	DOC	861	

30 stations total

73 de AA1IK

Ernie

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7647] AL7FS/KH6 & conditions of exile
Message-ID: <970101101540_1043175863@emout03.mail.aol.com>

See? That's why I I have pretty much given up on playing "real radio" when I go on trips, vacations, out-patient ECT, outtings with the other patients and such. Every time that I've got it figured that I'm gonna play "real radio," the conditions go all to hell or it's too rainy to hang a wire in a tree or Cindy'd rather go to the outlet malls.

'Course, that don't mean that I don't take a radio. Or that I go to the outlet malls. It just means that I find the smallest piece of radio deteriorata I can carry what'll also make sense to try. And then I just sit around and wait for a moment to play radio. Not "real" radio, mind you. Just radio. Like "Oh, there's a CQ... Maybe he/she can hear me... Well, guess not.... Hey Cid! You wanna go to the outlet mall?" It's a condition of exile, see?

And notice: I ain't dissin' Jim for trying. Hell, if I were DX again, I'd figure that QRP DX might be an interesting experiment. That and goin' to the outlet malls.

73 ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun!

Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Subject: [7613] al7fs/kh6 010035zJan97
Message-ID: <jlarsen0010040230>

I put up the slv again. Still nothing strong enough to work but copied n9iup?? at 2325z on 14.060, kc5sji?? at 2335z on 14.051, wb6crm and n0kdi (nice sig) on 14.058 at 2343z.

May try 30 mtr later if I am still at the condo. don't know yet if I will be here.
here

73,
jim
al7fs

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Subject: [7636] al7fs/kh6 on air 1300z 7.042+-
Message-ID: <jlarsen0011301530>

it's 3 am. i am on the air at 7.042+- with cq for 30 min. then tune and call

i will post updates every so often until i go to bed.

if this works at all, i will try it again tomorrow morning.

jim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Subject: [7670] al7fs/kh6 qth=The Black Hole
Message-ID: <jlarsen0012022360>

Just spent an hour tuning 20mtr. at 1900z there were 5 puny sigs from
025-065 and one sig below 025. Its about the same now.

If I am in the room at 0500z I will be on 40 mtr around .061+- . I am
checking that time based on input from successful east coast qsos
by some of the folks on qrp-1 in the past. 0500-0700z

also, I am committed to listen 061+- from 1000-1300z. 40mtr

I will post updates to qrp-1 as needed to inform of my activity. I have
switched in the ic-706 to take advantage of the NB. still qrp at just
under 5 watts.

If I could hear k0evz last night will I hear you tonight?

73,
Jim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Subject: [7638] al7fs/kh6 re k0evz
Message-ID: <jlarsen0011416260>

I have been calling k0evz 229 for 5 min. He cannot hear me.

also

w9op 1330
w9bl 1340

tx larry 1345
k5sna s7
station called me at 1351 a 4? qrzed him
1405z = k0evz

73,

jim

i am still on air 7.0411 +-

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Wilford D. Lindsey" <70511.3041@CompuServe.COM>
Subject: [7652] al7fs/kh6 re k0evz
Message-ID: <970101150752_70511.3041_IHD46-2@CompuServe.COM>

Jim:

Going back to the set. Thot perhaps I *did* hear you, but not sure. I was calling you on 7041.7 or so. Will try more! Let's do it. If this doesn't work, let's try for 20 later...maybe 30. It's helpful to know when you are on, and what freq. Hang in there, guy!

72/73,
--Doc/K0EVZ QRP-L #861

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: John Dorson <jdorson@bbs.mpcs.com>
Subject: [7662] ant. question
Message-ID: <199701011829.NAA30397@bbs.mpcs.com>

hi gang and a very happy new year to all.

i have a question regarding a portable ant. i want to take my qrp rigs (40 and 20 meters) to the beach sometimes and i have been reading alot of info lately from this list. for ease of bringing whatever i would need to take with me (including all of the normal beach stuff) for the ant. i am thinking about the 87' long wire with the 17' counterpoise. with my mini tuner/swr bridge i should have no problems tuning both 20 and 40 meters.

what the question is, can i use only one tall support at the far end (say 15-20ft high) and maybe a three foot support near the rig. it would be like a slopper only the angle would be off quite a bit. OR must this ant. be horz. that is my question.

i have given alot of thought to the SLV but i don't want to take up alot of space with the three or more radials..

what's your advice...
Thank You

John Dorson Real Estate Consultant in Melbourne Beach, Brevard County Florida
E-Mail To: jdorson@bbs.mpcs.com

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| Trying for WAS -      AL,AK,AZ,AR,CA,CO,CT,FL,GA,IL,IA,KS,KY,LA,ME,MD,MA|  
| and worked these:    MI,MN,MT,NH,NJ,NY,NC,ND,OH,OK,OR,PA,RI,TX,VT,VA,WA|  
|                      WI                                           |  
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K2JHU only QRP... CQC #351, GQRP # 9092, QRP-L #672

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bob Finch <bfinch@vet.purdue.edu>
Subject: [7668] Antennas TRUTH and cycles
Message-ID: <199701011943.0AA04303@vet.vet.purdue.edu>

To Cecil but for all to read.;

Uh read ur response to L.B. that (L.B.'s that is) was
originally a response to my suggesting that folks go

get a copy of Maxwell's book, instead of reading the trashy article by McCoy in the Jan '97 issue of CQ. (I didn't know where to send them to find their copy of the book.)

Anyways, I am curious just who (or whom) at the League Mr. Buene has convinced of this silly stuff? (i.e. of course the conjugate is only at one freq..... basic stuff for ENGINEERS. I think you are being kind calling the snafu a leap of faith.) As someone who knows better and a paid up member AND volunteer; I'd like to speak at them a bit.

Besides the League has been wrong before in this area. To wit they promulgated McCoy's Ultimate Transmatch which originally had a superfluous shunt cap on the input of the 'standard tee-match' tuner circuit.

To everyone else here.;

I'm sitting in my hotel room before work reading 'the digest' and am very amused with Roy's (KC40) posting here about taking the engineers into a room and not letting them out

'till he gets his dream tuner.

It also got me thinking about three things;

1- There is a very cyclical nature to the postings on this group. (Maybe ALL groups, but I only have time for two.) Not only do topics re-appear, but alot of the types of responses too ! Someone took Cecil on when Cecil suggested that Buene could be wrong about some conjugate matching stuff. Then he said that Buene has alot of paper on his wall that sezs otherwise, and Cecil had better prove once again, mathamatically, what amounts to how Mr. Smith's charts work (and why).

Come on guys, we HAVE been down this road before here. We have had PhD's in physics eat their words here in the past. And it is common sense. Just because they have the wall-paper doesn't preclude making mistakes or talking out the sides of their mouth.

2- There is also a need to periodically remind the non-engineer hams amongst us, just what the circuit (and I include 'antennas' et al) designers do. They 'engineer' a circuit to satisfy certain specific needs. THERE ARE seldom BAD

COMPONENTS, in and by themselves, REALLY.

JUST BAD DESIGNS, BECAUSE OF INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SPECIFIC ITEMS AND METHODS. A designer must 'grok' the subject to meet his designing goals. And antenna systems certainly fall into this category.

Calling Maxwell's bead choke balun a bad device by showing it used improperly is silly. And overstating it's applicable uses is ALSO silly.

(Someone here said it was bad cause it could be made with the wrong components, if I understood the posting correctly.)

Nuff' said.

I like LB's posting about the frustrations of learning these things for oneself ESPECIALLY with the availability of the CRAP that McCoy published (mentioned above).

3- Anyways, don't ask engineers to solve your antenna design WITHOUT first knowing ALL the demands, variables, and restraints that are involved. Since these vary, there will be

many designs which in the abstract are no better than any other. But some designs will however be better for whatever happens to be the goals of the moment.

(However, that said, there ARE such things as universally silly and stupid designs.)

Nuff said ('till it needs to be said again, in the cycle of life...hi).

Baab, W9YA nee n6cxb

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Len W. Touth" <len@infinet.com>
Subject: [7632] Builders Reports available at CQrp
Message-ID: <199701010941.EAA23674@mail1.infinet.com>

Hi Gang:

For those interested in kitbuilding reports;

CQrp (The Columbus QRP Club) web pages now sport builders reports from our resident GURU on kitbuilding (K8IDN - Steve Bornstein).

The club will post a new report each month on a new kit - as available.

This month, the feature is the LDG QRP Autotuner.

You can get to the site via this address: <http://www.infinet.com/~len>
follow the prompts to the kitbuilders report within CQrp

Enjoy - es Happy New Year

Best 72/3
Len

KG8SF

len@infinet.com

kg8sf@key.com

QRP-L # 841 CQrp # 2 ARCI # 9025 FISTS # 2134

CHARTER MEMBER - THE COLUMBUS QRP CLUB - CQrp

Web Page: <http://www.infinet.com/~len>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: n4so@juno.com

Subject: [7639] CQ FS/N4SO

Message-ID: <19970101.101056.5223.1.N4SO@juno.com>

CQ FIFTY STATES CQ FS from N4SO/QRP

Time: off and on this morning/ Try especially at the top of the hour.

Frequency: 14.050- 14.055

State: ALABAMA

This evening try 40 meters 7.035- 7.040

FROM about 2200Z for a couple of hours.

Will be calling CQ FS

de N4SO

Ken Brown , N4SO

QTH: Nr Mobile, AL

QRP-L #622

n4so@juno.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Jess Gypin <jessqrp@concentric.net>

Subject: [7626] Emtech NW40 on the air and other ramblings.

Message-ID: <32C9795A.4F50@concentric.net>

Hi all,

I have been off on vacation over the holidays and have had time to spend with the family and relax a little. I have hooked up one of the local repeaters to the internet using internet phone and Rptrlink so that has been fun having hams from all over the world checking on on the repeater

in Boulder. If any of you have Internet Phone and would like to hook up to the repeater look for the NOWBW repeater in the rpmlink chat room. I just finished building the Emtech NW 40 rig. Seems like a nice little rig and went together well. The only problems that I have are waiting for the right resistors for the audio filters and Roy has promised that he will ship the right resistors soon. I have not been able to get the power adjustment pot to work right but I am getting about 5 watts out and the initial on the air reports have been good. I have noticed that the receiver is nice and sensitive and the tone reports have been good. Kit was a pleasure to put together and the way that Roy bags the parts per module makes the building easy and I think is the right way to go. He bags the parts that you need to finish the module that you are building and it sure is a lot better than scrounging through all of the parts to find one. I like his simple approach to the dial pointer. He uses a 8:1 vernier cap and the dial pointer is made from a bit of #12 copper solid and a rubber grommet. You put the rubber grommet on the back half of the cap shaft and then bend the wire around the grommet and then fashion the pointer out of that. I made mine up and then painted it black and filed a little point on the end, looks real nice and is a nice inexpensive alternative to the dial and hub pointer. I think that when I get the audio filter working that it will help remove some of the high freq hiss and then all should be ok. I built this as a travel radio and it am looking forward to trying it with my modded SLV the next time that I am out of town. I like the way that Roy printed the dial calibration on a clear mailing label. That worked out real well and the calibration is real close. I can find a freq within 100 hz just using the dial pointer. The only other thing that I need to figure out is when I have the OHR digital dial hooked up the freq of the radio drops about 20-50 kc and the counter readings are sporadic. When I have the counter hooked up to the OHR 400 it is solid as a rock and no detuning of the rig. I used the V and Vg hooks ups that he provides on the board as test points and have this running through a short 2 inch mini coax to an RCA jack in the outside of the radio and should work fine. Not sure why this is and the display on the counter is unstable. Will look more into this later. I hooked the OHR SCAF filter up to it and it killed most of the hiss and so when I get the audio filter humming, that should help. If anyone wants to look at my miserable start of a home page the URL is <http://home.concentric.com/~jessqrp>

Best to all
Jess NOTFI

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jacobson@mail.wiscnet.net (Ed Jacobsen)
Subject: [7671] First HF antenna - additional info
Message-ID: <199701012027.0AA472734@gomer.wiscnet.net>

Already I've received five replies to my posting. Floyd Soo has rightly posed several additional questions to help formulate a recommendation. So, below the conditions I originally listed, I'll copy his questions and my answers.

>> My conditions:

>> - For the time being it will be listening only: I'm still no-code Tech;
>> - Live in the woods, much space, mostly wooded with tall pines, on edge
>> of lake, no antenna ordinances;
>> - Have RS 30' 3-section tower next to shack, with Ringo Ranger atop;
>> - Have 45' tower, 135' from shack, with rotor and TV antenna atop;
>> - Ultimate radio goals: DX, and low power for USA;
>> - Prefer purchase as limited time for constructing one.
>> what suggestions are forthcoming?

>Ed,

>

>We still need more info! What bands are you planning on operating?

I expect (hope) to operate on 10-80m.

>Requirements for a 80M antenna will be different from a 10M antenna. Do
>you want one antenna for 10-80 meters? Do you want to run monoband
>antennas?

Probably a single antenna, but the uncertainty of choices caused my request in the first instance. Perhaps later I will find that I spend most of the time on one band and could then put up a special antenna for that one.

> Can you run open wire feedline to a dipole, as opposed to
>coax?

Yes, I've a window from my shack just by the RS tower.

>Do have enough property to stretch a 135' dipole out and have the
>antenna at a height of at least 40'?

Yes, I've 40 acres. Could be a loooooong wire.

>Are you thinking about a beam antenna with rotator?

Perhaps later, for DXing. But do you might think I should 'go' for that as first choice?

>If you are contemplating wire antennas, one of the
>best sources of commercially available antennas is the Radioworks in
>Portsmouth, VA. They have a fabulous catalog that many use as a
>reference guide.

This is a bit like fishing, isn't it? Throw something out and wonder what you'll get in. Y'all have a good new year. 73 Ed

- - -

Ed Jacobsen
4900 Dake Road
Webster WI 54893, U.S.A.
phone/fax (715)349-2761
KB9KJE

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jacobsen@mail.wiscnet.net (Ed Jacobsen)
Subject: [7656] First HF antenna advice sought
Message-ID: <199701011725.LAA444838@gomer.wiscnet.net>

Just read Cebic's "Tuners: A little perspective", about getting an antenna up and operating to the max, but then to start asking questions and trying to understand all that there is to be known about antennas, feedlines, and tuners. etc. Couldn't agree more.

So I try to apply it to myself. My recently acquired Kenwood TS120S sits on a shelf above my well used 2m rig, impatiently awaiting an antenna. Reading the ARRL Antenna Handbook doesn't seem to help in choosing which antenna to put up. So on this cold New Year's eve, I seek advice from this good group.

My conditions:

- For the time being it will be listening only: I'm still no-code Tech;
- Live in the woods, much space, mostly wooded with tall pines, on edge of lake, no antenna ordinances;
- Have RS 30' 3-section tower next to shack, with Ringo Ranger atop;
- Have 45' tower, 135' from shack, with rotor and TV antenna atop;
- Ultimate radio goals: DX, and low power for USA;
- Prefer purchase as limited time for constructing one.

what suggestions are forthcoming?

Ed

- - -

Ed Jacobsen
4900 Dake Road
Webster WI 54893, U.S.A.
phone/fax (715)349-2761
KB9KJE

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NZ8J <timcook@erinet.com>
Subject: [7653] FS/T OHR QRP Classic
Message-ID: <32CA8FCA.1445@erinet.com>

OHR QRP CLASSIC 20/40m radio for sale. With or without keyer. I am only selling to buy a multiband QRP rig. In very nice condition. Looks and works great. have all documentation. Checked and aligned by Dick at OHR in Oct. \$195 w/keyer \$175 wo/Keyer
Will sell or trade on a miltiband QRP radio. Thanks!!
Tim
NZ8J

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: mosinski@facstaff.wisc.edu
Subject: [7681] FS: QRP library
Message-ID: <199701012117.PAA17940@audumla.students.wisc.edu>

Family and work commitments dictate that I leave amateur radio for a while. Therefore, I am liquidating what remains of my shack. This post will list the QRP/amateur radio/antenna books which I have for sale, along with a few odds and ends.

Since books are relatively expensive to mail and my prices are very reasonable (I believe), I would ask that the buyer pay all shipping on book orders under \$25. Shipping for book orders over \$25 will be worked out between the buyer and myself.

Now, on with the list...

HF Antennas For All Locations, 2nd edition, Les Moxon	\$10
W1FB's QRP Notebook, Doug DeMaw	\$4
W1FB's Design Notebook, DeMaw	\$4
W1FB's Antenna Notebook, DeMaw	\$4
Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur, DeMaw & Hayward	\$5
ARRL Electronics Data Book, DeMaw	\$5
ARRL Handbook, 1993	\$5
ARRL Handbook, 1995	\$5

ARRL Antenna Handbook, 16th ed, 1991 \$7.50
Simple, Low-Cost Wire Antennas for Radio Amateurs, Orr & Cowan, \$5
The Rules of the Antenna Game, Ted Hart (The Loop Guy) \$5

Small High Efficiency Antennas alias The Loop, Hart \$7
The Shortwave Propagation Handbook, 2nd ed., 1982, Jacobs & Cohen \$4

Low Power Communications, Vol. 1, QRP Basics, Arland \$5
Your QRP Operating Companion, Wells, \$3
Low Profile Amateur Radio, Kearman \$3
The HW-8 Handbook, 2nd printing, Bryce \$3

Now You're Talking, 2nd ed., 1993, ARRL \$5
Your VHF Companion, ARRL \$3
The Complete DX'er, 2nd ed., Locher \$4

-----Odds 'n Ends-----

CT logging software, Version 8, MS-DOS \$30

S & S Engineering FC4 Frequency Counter with AD4 4-digit add-on,
this makes the counter display 8 digits, also includes optional
Bezel for mounting. Fully built and operational, no case. \$35

MFJ-1270C TNC-2 packet controller, excellent condition \$80

MFJ-451 Morse keyboard unit only (no keyboard included; uses any IBM
style keyboard). Fully stand-alone unit, no computer required.
With manual. \$40

MXM Simple Transceiver for 40 M. Fully built and operational, in
case. \$80

Cardwell High Voltage Air Variable Capacitor for Loop Antenna
construction. #154-14-15 \$25

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Jim Hydzik <congress@magpage.com>
Subject: [7672] FSFD (50 States) Daily Update Jan 01
Message-ID: <199701012007.PAA20298@alaska.magpage.com>

Hello ALL, (activity goals at <http://www.dancris.com/~ki7mn>)

The 50 States In 50 Days (FSFD) activity started Jan 01 and runs through
Feb. 20. Below is a the schedule of States for the next few days. We will
attempt to provide digested schedules of states/times/bands/freqs. to help
reduce message traffic to the reflector. Typically, 1 message per day only.

A few ops. are out on holiday vacations through 1/3-4/97 and will need to
post to the group when they get home, and hopefully in time for all to read.

Otherwise look for them on 40M on the scheduled night.

Jan. 01,	Wednesday	ALABAMA	KS4L, Randy	Noon->1:30 PM CST	14.057
				6->8 PM CST	7.037
				8->9 PM CST	3.557
			N4S0, Ken:	After 10 AM CST	14.050-055
		(Will Call CQ FS)		5 PM CST>Coupl Hrs	7.035-040
Jan. 02,	Thursday	ARKANSAS	W0LK, Bob:	2 PM->4 PM CST	14.058
				7 PM->11 PM CST	7.042
	(Yes, AM)		N9ZZ, Bob:	4:30 AM->6 AM CST	3.560
				7 PM->8 PM CST	3.560
Jan. 03,	Friday	ARIZONA	KC7NEV, Joe:	2->3:30 PM MST	14.062
				4->5:30 PM MST	10.118
	NOVICE			7->8:30 PM MST	7.118
	BAND			9:30->on til??	7.118
			W7KXB, Bill		7.039?
			KK7BD, Dan	will post Jan 1-2	
Jan. 04,	Saturday	COLORADO	AL7GQ, Geno:	5->6 AM MST	7.042
		NOVICE		8:30->9 PM MST	3.722
		NOVICE		9:30->10 PM MST	7.111
		NOVICE		10:30->11 " "	3.722
				11:15->11:45 "	1.812
			AA0XI, Marshall:	7->9 PM MST	7.037
			KB0VCC, Dale		7.042?
Jan. 05,	Sunday	CALIFORNIA	W6JHB, Jim:	10 AM->6 PM PST	10.110->10.118
			N6WG, Bob:	5->7 PM PST	7.035->7.045
	(START in AM)		AC6KW, Jeff:	8->8:30 AM PST	7.042
				2->3 PM PST	14.059
				3->3:30 PM PST	21.059
				7->9 PM PST	7.042
			K6LS, Phil:	4->8 PM PST	7.040 +/-10Kc
				but not dead on	.040
Jan. 06	Monday	SPARTAN SPRINT,	no special FSFD state (work everybody)		
Jan. 07	Tuesday	CONNECTICUT	AA1MY, Seab:	9 PM->11 PM EST	7.042
				11 PM->Midnight	1.810
		(Actualy Wed AM EST)		Midnight->1 AM EST	10.115
Jan. 08	Wednesday	DELAWARE	K3AS, Bill:	10->10:20 AM EST	7.042
				Noon->12:30 PM "	14.059
				1->1:30 PM "	21.059
				2-2:20 PM "	7.042
				9->11 PM "	3.556

(3 ele. yagi on Europe)	KA3LLL, Jim: 7:30->9 PM EST	3.556
	K3QIO, Jim: 9->9:20 AM EST	7.042
	10->10:20 AM EST	14.059
	Noon-12:20 PM EST	10.115
	1->1:20 PM EST	18.079
(Novice Band)	2->2:20 PM EST	21.111
	9->11 PM EST	7.042

Jan. 09 Thursday FLORIDA	KK4KF, Bill: 6:30->7:30 AM EST	3.710
	6->7:30 PM EST	7.108
(Note NOVICE Freqs)	7:30->9 PM EST	3.710
N4BP, Bob:	1-4 PM EST	14.058
	4->5 PM EST	10.115
	5->7 PM EST	7.038

Most every sign-up came with a note saying they would go longer if busy.

CALLING CQ: A suggestion. If we call CQ WAS or WAS QRP de K6.... etc,
we give those not on QRP-L an indication of what we're doing. FSFD type
calling might be too cryptic for all but ourselves.

ALASKA & HAWAII: Jim-AL7FS/KH6 did arrive in Hawaii, is posting directly to
the reflector and will be on through the first few days of the year. Watch
the reflector and grab him when you can. Jim will activate ALASKA on a
weekend after his return.

If you are on this list and haven't gotten an e-mail request from me
regarding YOUR operating desires, just fill in the info here and reply.

Juno has been a mess for the last 3-4 days. I have suggested the 40M
frequencies when not specified by the volunteer.

Anyone else want to sign-up, e-mail band/freq/time directly to:
congress@magpage.com

Thanks for all the responses/encouragement and suggestions. Lets have a blast!

Remember that those getting back from a weeks vacation will have around 600+
messages to get through as they post their operating times. Patience for
them please.

Jim K3QIO Wilmington, Delaware

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Phil, K6LS" <k6ls@amsat.org>
Subject: [7622] FSFD schedule for Ca (de K6LS)

Message-ID: <32C9D689.6DA7@amsat.org>

here is what I will commit myself to, for the FSFD event.

Not seeing too much posted along the lines of 20m activity,
I will join the "pack" and work 40m. - unless there is a
demand for another band or the novice portion of 40m here is
where you will find me:

1600-2000 pst (0400-0800 utc) 7.040 (+/- 10kc for QRM)
(4-8pm pst)

** please note that I will not be right on top of .040 to leave room for
our "non-contesting" brothers and sisters.

good luck and cul. 72 de Phil K6LS

Happy NewYear

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bob Hightower <ki7mn@dancris.com>
Subject: [7654] FSFD Schedules
Message-ID: <199701011626.JAA06860@dancris.com>

I have the schedules on my page, and will post updates as they come on the
list. I'll try to keep about a week ahead, as Jim does, so please check the
page often. Times are beginning to get firm and are trickling in after all
the festivities.

Where, oh where is AL7FS? Got to be tough with the time difference and all.
73,

Bob, KI7MN Chandler, AZ ScQRPion QRP-L #271, NorCal #1228, CQC #274, QRP
ARCI #8918, AK QRP #30, not in any order of importance.

<http://www.dancris.com/~ki7mn>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "DANIEL DOBSON" <DAN DOBSON@msn.com>

Subject: [7667] FW: Audio Amp help
Message-ID: <UPMAIL02.199701011937510950@msn.com>

From: DANIEL C. DOBSON[FAX:+1 (317) 575-0515]
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 1996 6:32 PM
Subject: Audio Amp help

Hey guys,

I'm trying to complete a simple LM386 audio amp circuit. This one is right out of the Radio Shack Mini-Engineer Notebook by Forest Mims.

I make the connections with my input being the audio output from a QRP rig (OHR Explorer) and the out put from the amp driving an 8 ohm speaker. This isn't rocket science, but the darn thing is very distorted!

The project was started after the little article recently shown in QRPp...

Any suggestions?

Dan N9ZYV dandobson@msn.com QRP-L #729

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Cecil A Moore <Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.ch.intel.com>
Subject: [7680] G5RV graphic

ASCII graphics leave a lot to be desired. I've taken advantage of my delphi "free" web page to experiment with HTML and have posted a 10k GIF file there. It shows how and why a G5RV works on 3.8 MHz. I plan to do a tutorial on the Smith(R) chart if it can be done using that web page. Check it out at:

<http://people.delphi.com/cecilmoore>

73, Cecil, W6RCA, OOTC

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: n5zgt@swcp.com (Brian Mileseshosky)
Subject: [7617] Happy New Year!
Message-ID: <199701010152.SAA20843@kitsune.swcp.com>

Hello Everybody!

Happy New Year and see everybody next year!

72,

Brian, N5ZGT

Boy Scouts of America	Amateur Radio - N5ZGT
Eagle Scout (12-6-96)	ARRL QRP: NorCal# 1700 QRP-L# 580
JASM - Troop 41	Author of Worldradio's "Youth Forum" Column
Albuquerque, N.M.	Packet: N5ZGT @ KC5IZT.ALBQ.NM.USA.NA
O.A. Lodge 66 <-W-W-W-<<	Internet: n5zgt@swcp.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Bill Kelsey - N8ET - Kanga US" <kanga@mail.bright.net>

Subject: [7684] Kanga US Special Prices for QRP-L

Message-ID: <199701012246.RAA20303@mail.bright.net>

I have just put up a web page with special pricing on some Kanga Kits

Check it out at :

<http://www.bright.net/~kanga/special.html>

I will be adding to the page during the month and will post a msg to the list when I add a kit to the page. The prices will be good for the month of January, or until I run out of stock.

Looking forward to hearing from a lot of you.

73 - Bill - N8ET

Kanga US

kanga@mail.bright.net

<http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/kanga/>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Dave.Ackrill@westwood45.powergen.co.uk

Subject: [7677] Key Clicks with Electronic Keyers

Message-ID: <970101213723Z*/G=Dave/S=Ackrill/O=westwood45/PRMD=POWERGEN/

ADMD=CWMAIL/C=GB@MHS>

Dear all,

I have a problem when using an electronic keyer in that I'm getting reports of key clicks from a local station. The rig is a Kenwood TS850S, which has an inbuilt keyer, which I presume carries out any wave shaping that is needed.

The problem happens when I use an external keyer. I can alter the setting on the CW input socket to allow the use of a straight key and I am also using this setting for a simple beacon keyer unit which on off keys via a single transistor output. The question is, does the TS850S shape the on off keying waveform, or do I need to add a filter on the output of the keyer?

I've looked in the ARRL handbook, and there doesn't seem to be much on keying waveforms other than to recommend 5mS rise and fall times. The RSGB Radio Communication Handbook only talks about keying valves! My other "Bible" - Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur - doesn't seem to have much to say either. I've tried deciphering the Kenwood circuit diagrams, but it's not easy to spot where all the lines go to, or which bits control waveshape and whether they are switched out when using a simple straight key. I wouldn't have thought that they would be taken out, but can't be sure.

Can anyone give me any advice about avoiding clicks on a simple transistor keying circuit please?

Thanks a lot de Dave (G0DJA)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bruce Rattray <RATTRAY@siast.sk.ca>
Subject: [7619] N/T?
Message-ID: <9207442131121996/A30351/RIEL/11ACFD690500*@MHS>

Good going Doc (K0EVZ) for snagging the N/T Fox...well I have a question from a qrp newby...ME!...what's the "N/T"?...thanks and Happy New Year to all ! which we'll celebrate here in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada in about 2 and 1/4 hours!....Cheers - Bruce (VE5RC) QRP-L#886
"QRP! How sweet it is!"

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Jeff M. Gold" <JMG@tntech.edu>
Subject: [7659] NW8020, help, please
Message-ID: <01IDP5DP5SWY8WXJD6@tntech.edu>

Happy New Year!

I have just started to build the NW8020 from Dan's.

I am missing page 10 of the instructions. If anyone could possibly email it, sure would appreciate it.

thanks, 72
Jeff, AC4HF

Dan have an email?

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Phil, K6LS" <k6ls@amsat.org>
Subject: [7669] O-scope info
Message-ID: <32CAB603.578B@amsat.org>

A while back there was some inquiry on the use of an oscilloscope.

Today, I was "cleaning up" my web bookmarks and ran into the following:

http://www.tek.com/Measurement/App_Notes/XYZs/contents.html

There is plenty of info to be had there, so go take a look.

It is basicly just a primer on the scope, but you may learn something.
(how about that? ;-)

Happy New Year 72 de Phil K6LS

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: nskousen@scientech.com (Niel Skousen)
Subject: [7683] QRO Hospitality
Message-ID: <v02140b03aef096d816aa@[198.60.91.132]>

Thanks again Steve for your hospitality during my visit to New Jersey in Dec.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to play with your Sierra. I was really looking forward to trying to come back for the N/T Foxhunt on Wed, sorry the work got in the way !!, gotta get my priorities fixed :-)

Happy New Year to you
&
Happy New Year to all on QRP-L

Niel

Niel Skousen: Sr.Eng, SCIENTECH.SPG/CFG nskousen@scientech.com
208.525.3742, FAX 529.4721 Idaho Falls ID WA7SSA QRP-L.119
Z-----DN33wm--- . . . -

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Pete Rossi <wa3nna@resuba.com>
Subject: [7635] QRP BEACONS - NEW YEARS DAY
Message-ID: <199701011226.HAA13332@resuba.com>

As of 7:01 AM EST Jan 1 -- The WA3NNA Beacon is on the air. Copy of
announcement follows...

ANNOUNCING the ultimate QRP beacon challenge! Paul, AA4XX and I will both
be running QRP beacons at the same time on New Years Day 7AM - 3PM EST.

----- 40 METER QRP BEACON ANNOUNCEMENT -----

START TIME : 7AM EST 1 JAN 97 (1200 UTC)

END TIME : 3PM EST 1 JAN 97 (2000 UTC)

AA4XX BEACON:

FREQUENCY : 7022 KHz

OUTPUT POWER : Continuous 100 uW except for 2 minute 500 mW spotting strings sent at 7AM, 10AM, and 1 PM

LOCATION : Raleigh, NC

MESSAGE : "VVV 100uW <4 letter codeword repeated 10 times> de AA4XX/B"

ANTENNA : 1) 80M Off Center Fed Dipole up 60 feet with 450 ohm ladderline. On 40M this antenna presents a 4-lobe cloverleaf pattern firing NE, SE, SW, NW from North Carolina.

2) 2 Element 40M Wirebeam up 60 feet. This is a phased wirebeam firing a unidirectional lobe either North or South, with optimal coverage of W4,W3,W2,W8, and VE3 Land, and some gain into W1 territory.

Both antennas will be switched regularly to give all call areas a shot at copying the beacon. The wirebeam will also be switched from N to S regularly.

Optimum time for East Coast Stations to copy will be from 7:30 AM EST - 11AM EST, based on many trials with KA3WTF and K7SZ in Northeast PA.

RIG : Wilderness Sierra
Beacon Keyer: Super CMOS II

WA3NNA BEACON:

FREQUENCY : 7017 KHz

OUTPUT POWER : Power will cycle though 5 different levels, 2 minutes at each power level; 4 minutes at the 100 uW level.

----- MINUTES PAST THE HOUR -----					POWER LEVEL
00-02	12-14	24-26	36-38	48-50	1 W
02-04	14-16	26-28	38-40	50-52	100 mW
04-06	16-18	28-30	40-42	52-54	10 mW
06-08	18-20	30-32	42-44	54-56	1 mW
08-12	20-24	32-36	44-48	56-60	100 uW

Each level represents a 10 dB drop from the higher level.

These times should be very accurate, however, keep in mind that the power level will not change to the next level until the

previous message has finished sending.

LOCATION : Newtown Square PA FM29hx (about 15 miles west of Philadelphia)

MESSAGE : VVV VVV xx MW <4_letter_code_word> DE WA3NNA/B QRP
Sent at aprox 15 WPM. Unique codeword for each power level.
The codeword will be repeated THREE TIMES at the 100 uW level.

ANTENNA : 40 meter coax fed inverted-vee center @ 50' running north/south

REPORTING : Please send all AA4XX beacon reports to aa4xx@amsat.org

Please send all WA3NNA beacon reports to beacon@resuba.com

Detailed signal reports, receiver and antenna info, etc are very much appreciated but PLEASE do not bury your codeword reports inside a lot of lengthy text. It takes forever to extract the information that way.

So, PLEASE include a separate text block with your report containing the following information for the lowest power level copied:

YOUR CALL
YOUR NAME
YOUR LOCATION (If different than callbook server address)
CODEWORD & POWER LEVEL
DATE/TIME
SIGNAL REPORT

Canadian and other DX stations, please send long/lat coordinates of your location.

Certificates acknowledging the lowest power level at which you correctly copy the codeword will be available. Jerry, W4UK, who produced the certificates for past beacons has offered to produce them again for this one.

Details will be posted with the summary report which will be posted a few days after the beacon session, once all reports have been received.

Please spread the word about this beacon through whatever means available.

Good luck & Happy New Year,

Pete Rossi - WA3NNA QRP-L #459
wa3nna@resuba.com
beacon@resuba.com

Paul Stroud - AA4XX
aa4xx@amsat.org

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7648] Recently received SPRAT & a question
Message-ID: <970101102055_1458148416@emout01.mail.aol.com>

Ok, I'm an idiot. When I first got resubbed to this list, there was a flurry of messages about the address of Mike Kilgore (G-QRP's US membership subs handler). I just checked the web page and found an address that is not the same as Mike's address on the insert subs/renewal sheet that was in the recent SPRAT (Winter '96/'97).

Which address for Mike Kilgore is correct?

And ain't that a neat little VFO/synthesizer featured on the front of the SPRAT in question? And that's a question, right? Do I have to answer? Why? What? Badgers?

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Subject: [7643] resend al7fs info
Message-ID: <jlarsen0011508330>

resend reject msg.

----- Begin Forwarded Message -----
From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [7628] SKN
Message-ID: <M1214233.001.bht60.1.970101065329Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Well, another SKN has come and gone. Was fun, but rather slow this year. "What is SKN?" you say. That is when us old timers who grew up with a straight key dig it out of the closet or some grungy box of "stuff", blow the dust off, and try to have intelligible QSOs with it. Otherwise known as Straight Key Night. Happens every New Years Eve.

Had fun and worked ten stations. All QRO. Didn't even hear any QRP stations tonight, let alone work any. Surprised me. Band was rather short and noisy at my QTH.

Worked one ham in his 80s and one in his 70s. Another ham confirmed working one ham in the low 90s. These venerable gentlemen give the rest of us hope.

Hope you all have a very Happy New Year in '97.

I'll be looking for you Wednesday night as the FOX du jour, Jan 2 0400-0600 UTC.

72/73, Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: tahrens1@juno.com
Subject: [7686] SKN now?
Message-ID: <19970101.172811.4895.2.tahrens1@juno.com>

At 7051, somebody's calling cq skn...
wasn't that only last night, or also today?

he's got a nice fist too!

cu

Tim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: dolledb@cet.com
Subject: [7615] Soldering Equipment
Message-ID: <199701010134.RAA30196@cet.cet.com>

Ladies and Gentleman,

My question does not relate specifically to QRP operation, but involves an art in which most QRPers indulge. For some background, I've been using cheap hardware store soldering irons for my past 16 years of hamdom. These thing last a long time, but models seem to go in and out of style and soldering tips become hard to find or non-existent. I'm about to indulge in some more serious kit building, including the 38 Special that's on order, and it's time I got some better equipment with which to melt solder.

I'm wondering if anyone has experience or recommendations for any of the following soldering stations, particularly their adaptation for soldering circuit board level kits and the availability of tips and accessories. The models that I have been looking at are all Weller units, models 921ZX1, EC1002-1 and WCC100. Any accounts of experiences with other similar units would be appreciated.

I would hate to waste money on soldering equipment that would not suit my purposes, and information about similar equipment that I've found on the net has not been very specific. I'll apologize in advance if QRP-L readers consider this request "out of band."

Best wishes to all for the New Year.

Dennis B. Dolle, NX5W

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bruce Rattray <RATTRAY@siast.sk.ca>
Subject: [7642] tick
Message-ID: <4019530801011997/A30871/RIEL/11B10A341300*@MHS>

Where does one get the TICK from?....Cheers - Bruce (VE5RC) QRP-L#886
"QRP! How sweet it is!"

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Jess Gypin <jessqrp@concentric.net>
Subject: [7678] Tick Web Page
Message-ID: <32CA60AE.4426@concentric.net>

The corrected URL for the Tick keyer is

<http://www.vivanet.com/~gmddsr/tick.1.html>

There was a slash in the wrong place....

Jess NOTFI

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: n2beg@juno.com (Douglas E. Stewart)
Subject: [7664] TiCKs and cool web site!
Message-ID: <19970101.131738.3350.0.n2beg@juno.com>

Hi Gang,
Happy New year from frozen Western NY. A couple of items of note. I had lunch with some of the locals yesterday, as well as the entire staff of Embedded Research (Gary and Brad) and got to hold a real TiCK keyer in my hand. Very impressive package!! As of yesterday (12/31) They (Embedded) have not received the chips from Microchip. They are still on the way.. Gary will let everyone know when they arrive. I cant believe these things are 5 bucks..(\$16 for the whole thing, board and parts) The ordering address is:

Embedded Research
PO Box 92492
Rochester, NY 14692

Email to gmddsr@vivanet.com

info on the TiCK is on the web at :

<http://www.vivanet.com/~gmddsr/tick.1/html>

(I haven't tried this site yet, ABLE is hosed here again this AM)

Another very cool web site is

The DB Hounds World

[help:/members.ABLE.com/reconvey/DB_hound.home](http://members.ABLE.com/reconvey/DB_hound.home)

This site has links at the bottom of his product info that go anywhere you could imagine! If there is a radio manufacturer, info source, electronic what sit, or home page out there of any interest at all, It has a link from this page!! (hundreds!) check it out!

all disclaimers apply, I don't get didly, etc...

Have a Happy and Joyous New Year,

Doug

N2BEG

QRPL 850, etc..

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Steve, N2MNN" <n2mnn@openix.com>
Subject: [7614] TS850 Power Levels
Message-ID: <199701010053.TAA23065@pantera.openix.com>

Howdy all,

Once again I would would like to ask this respected group some technical questions.

I have a KNWD TS850 that I have wanted to use more for QRP, especially SSB. As has been discussed here previously, the problem begins at about 10 Watts, when it is necessary to reduce the power further by reducing the ALC setting. For SSB this means reducing the MIC gain. One can get to fairly low power levels, but the power tends to balloon upwards; I'm guessing the ALC is disabled.

Craig, AA3MD suggested an internal adjustment which I tried. It did give a lower power limit to the radio, with the ALC still active. I thought that this was the solution for me until I checked the max power out on each band, and discovered that the max power was down on most bands with one being only 25 Watts. Because of this I decided to reset the adjustment back to stock, and seek another method of reducing power.

I have read from several sources that that ALC pin on the connector that is used to hook up a linear to the rig can be used to control the power down to very low levels. KV4B discusses this for ICOM radios in OCT, '94 QRP Quarterly. I found on G3YCC's web page an arrangement for the TS-520. It consists of a 220K pot wired across a 9 V battery. The wiper of the pot goes to the ALC pin, and the positive side of the battery goes to the ground of the ALC connector. This allows one to put a negative bias on the ALC pin.

I made up a little box with a control in it to adjust the ALC pin bias. ON SSB I set the power down to minimum, and the MIC gain to the normal ALC reading. The output read about 10 Watts. I then gradually cranked in the ALC voltage up to -12 V. Nothing happened...the output stayed at 10 Watts.

QUESTIONS:

1) On CW, knocking the CAR control down to almost zero allows 10 mW operation with no ALC reading. But on SSB, if we reduce the ALC reading using the MIC gain knob to reduce power, doesn't the % modulation decrease, degrading the signal?

2) Why doesn't the negative ALC bias reduce the power out on SSB? Very little is discussed in the TS-850 manual about how to hook up a linear. Could I require another connection to get the radio to recognize the negative ALC Voltage? Does somebody have another ALC bias scheme that has worked for them?

3) Why does one have to have to set the CAR control in CW anyway? I would think that this could be done automatically by the radio. We don't do it with our QRP rigs. I can understand setting the MIC gain for one's individual voice, but on CW the signal out is either on or off.

I don't want to start another tangled thread here right now, because of my ignorance. This whole ALC thing has been knawing at me for a while since I don't fully understand it (I understand neg feedback to enhance stability). How about contacting me direct, and when I learn something new I'll post my progress to the list. Who knows, this might end up making good material for another QRP Quarterly article.

72, es hppy nu yr,

Steve, N2MNN

n2mnn@openix.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7663] Tuning the antoona & other post-SKN follies
Message-ID: <970101133458_2020641715@emout02.mail.aol.com>

For some time now I've had this feeling that the ol' Argosy had gone a bit deaf on 30 meters. I've swept and crept and spectrum animalized the appropriate circutes a couple times and never -- more or less -- had any luck proving that I was right or that the band was wrong. Until today.....

I fiddled around inside the belly of the ol' Argosy and then, after putting on the covers and checking 30m on the Argosy as compared with the Sony 7600G, decided that I was right. At least 'til I remembered someone saying that a G5RV would tune (maybe) on 30m but its performance would (or could) be less than stellar. So I unhosed the G5RV (which I do not run with a coax, thus making it a kinda open wire feed dipole) and hosed up the jerry-rigged chonks of long wire hanging out into the yard from the 2nd floor bedroom window.

Ach, weh, I haff been fightink mit geists all zu langk! It was the antoona. Not the antoona tenner, which I've fiddled and looked at and tried to figure out what I'd built (memory problems... what?) . Not the radio, which has suffered big time joe 'cause of trying to run the G5RV (memory problem again.... what?).

So now, maybe I can work a bunch of folks on 30m. No wonder I didn't hear anyone goot last nacht!

Or: Can you imagine what I'd done if I'd finished off the 38 Special (Ah, a keyer in the box with a antoona tenner too...what a field radio, eh) and hooked it up to the "other antenna" (or worse yet, the vertical in the back yard what has always kicked butt) and then thought "The Argosy is deaf. I'll use this [38 Spec] until I can afford to get it fixed? We're all bozos on this bus. Well, at least I am. I don't know about you, since you could be some Husserlian phenomenal curve in space/time, which would be really scary, 'cause I could just be talking to myself.

Nurse! Get these chickens out of my bed! They're scaring the badgers! Nurse!

73

Nils

WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Paul R. Valko" <prvalko@oakland.edu>
Subject: [7641] W8KC FOX REPORT WAS: FOX HOAX
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.95.970101091301.21419B-100000@vela.acs.oakland.edu>

Listen fellas,

I don't get too rattled by much, but you folks posting to the list that there was no Fox Monday or that I was a hoax or some cruel joke really blew my gasket. Thanks for trying but you you got skunked, plain and simple.

The problem was... I almost got skunked too!

I had everything set up perfectly, the keyer was programmed, there was not a trace of QRN from the power lines, and I made a couple pre-fox QSOs just for safety sake. Rig tuned to 7.036 and I had a BIG glass of ice water, I was

reeeeeeeeeeeeeady tooooooooooo rumblllllllllllllllllllle!!!

BANG! 0200 Z!

CQ CQ CQ FOX de W8KC W8KC W8KC Dah di dah

Holy Cats! How'd they find me so fast! What a pile up! I could not believe it, I was so stunned that I had trouble pulling out the calls everyone was 599 (you guys know YOU are also supposed to be QRP?)

Finally an signal! Makes me feel better for not wasting my whole evening! I call CQCQCQCQCQCQC a bajillion times

more. I finally hear a local friend of mine on 7.038
calling CQ so I answer him! Does it count?

03:40 K8BVJ 579 579 MI Jack not qrp-l
I talk with Jack for a couple minutes and finish the night
calling CQ hopelessly until 0400Z.

What a blow-out. After such a great start I can not express my total
disappointment in this foxhunt effort. Just twelve QSOs and a local
friend who doesn't really count 'cause I called him! I'm really sorry
friends but that's the way it goes sometimes.

It wasn't a hoax.

vy 73 es Happy New Year!

=paul= W8KC

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Frank, G3YCC" <g3ycc@enterprise.net>
Subject: [7651] Web Site
Message-ID: <199701011559.PAA22162@mail.enterprise.net>

I have spent several hours transferring the SMOVPO files from my
usual homepages to a different one. Try
<http://geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5179>

Let me know of any problems, but allow for a few bugs, which will be
cured!

Will try to fathom why my usual site won't work, soonest, but in the
mean time you have access to the above files. This site may suit our
friends in USA better anyway!

More to follow...

-----72/3-----

Frank, G3YCC G QRP Club 042 QTHR (Kirk Ella, Nr Hull)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: n2beg@juno.com (Douglas E. Stewart)
Subject: [7674] web site ,etc. part 2

Message-ID: <19970101.160944.9638.1.n2beg@juno.com>

Hi Gang, again

For what ever reason my previous post had the address for the DX hound site modified somehow. the correct address is:

<http://members.aol.com/rmnorley/dxhound.html>

this site is way cool!

sorry for any confusion

73z, Doug, N2BEG qrp-l # 850, etc...

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Bill Meahan <www@wa8tzg.mi.org>

Subject: [7612] YAUW - Yet Another Useful Website

Message-ID: <32c9a876.wa8tzg@wa8tzg.mi.org>

Well, fellow QRP-L listers, I've found another useful site on the Web (amazing what Yahoo can turn up!):

NTE Electronics, the folks who make a lot of substitute semiconductors and other parts, has a VERY interesting place where you can get "instant" cross-references of semiconductors to their NTE equivalents, download a version of the "QuickCross" software or find the address and phone number of NTE distributors in your area.

Looks like a useful stopover for homebrewers!

<http://www.nteinc.com>

Usual disclaimers apply, yadda, yadda, yadda.

72 and Happy New Year!

Bill Meahan WA8TZG wmeahan@wa8tzg.mi.org

ARRL, IMRA, QRP-L(#117), NorCal QRP (#407), G-QRP (#8468), MI-QRP (#M1458)

All statements herein are worth exactly what you paid for them

cat: a purr bearing mammal

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: w77kxb@juno.com (William Harris)

Subject: [7685] Re: 20 mtrs

Message-ID: <19970101.160039.4855.5.w77kxb@juno.com>

Did not hear N4S0. Meanwhile, anyone hear KS4L?

On Wed, 01 Jan 1997 14:12:40 -0800 Richard Wilkerson

<richqrp@pacbell.net> writes:

>I have been on since 1900hrs. very bad. was looking for Ken N4SO did
>hear him 2025 hrs. on 14.054, but not enough juice here to get there?
>73's rich.

>--

>Rich Wilkerson WD6FDD, Santee, Ca.

> NorCal, ARCI, Qrp-L, ECRA

> scQRPions

>

>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

Subject: [7633] Re: Antenna Maintenance

Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.970101052703.198A-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

> I use antennas
> till they fall down, THEN simply put up a new one.
> Now I never took critical measurements on their performance
> when new or ready to fall down, BUT I can not HEAR any difference,
> new OR old.

There are two very good reasons one cannot hear the difference between a clean, good as new, well-maintained antenna and one desperately needing maintenance. First, the old antenna builds up its problems in tiny increments, so that the difference between one day and the next is inaudible. In the same way, I look at the mirror each day as I shave and do not see myself growing older. But I attend a class reunion of folks I have not seen in ten or more years and hardly recognize these old people.

Second, when the new antenna to replace the fallen one is in place, the old one has been down a while. So we cannot take A-B readings of relatively controlled test signals (like a friend across town). When I traded in my 87 sedan on a 95 replacement, the difference was amazing. I did not think there was much difference between my old 87 and an even older 83 pick-up, for they aged at about the same rate, but the difference between the 83 and the 95 is impossible not to notice.

Not providing an antenna with good periodic maintenance may be a practice that fits a number of life styles. And there will always be a chorus of folks who "feel" the same way about such things to help us believe that we are justified in such habits. However, let's not confuse these attitudes with good engineering, electronic, and amateur radio practice. Good practice standards are a set of procedures designed to let a given communications system (transceiver, accessories, feedline, and antenna)

work at maximum efficiency.

If we are satisfied with less, we are saying that is good enough for us. We can do the proper difficult and messy plumbing repair or we can wrap the pipe leak with tape and say that is good enough for us. And it may well be good enough for any number of individuals. But in making recommendations, it is less than either the spirit or the letter of the regulations of amateur radio regarding technical practice to recommend "good enough." But it is always proper to recommend good practice standards.

And, yes, my antennas will come down this Spring for annual maintenance. I'll make a number of measurements in advance, along with some on-the-air checks with locals. I am always interested to see if there are any differences between before and after the work. There always have been a few, even if small ones.

Good enough or good practice: the choice is up to you.

But since this is January 1, 1997, a new year's resolution might be in order. . .

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: SEAB&SHARON LYON <SSLYON@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [7657] Re: Antenna Maintenance
Message-ID: <19970101173416.AAA5799@LOCALNAME>

>>

>>There are two very good reasons one cannot hear the difference between a
>*****

>If I may tag along on this thread... I agree for all the reasons LB states,
AND it (maint.) provides a bit of awareness/education regarding: my own or
commercial providers designs, assembly techniques, materials selection, AND
those freaky little marginal things like broken strands from ice strain,
impact of branches, ... etc.

>Quite educational, -IF one's interests go deeper than Pinching The Plastic
on a key or PTT button. =s=

>

"Seab" Lyon, AA1MY
Bethel, CT; FN-31-HJ;
ARCI#9253; QRP-L#574;
ARRL; QCWA; B.C.I.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Don Bullard <DBULLARD@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU>
Subject: [7627] Re: criticism of DeMaw, McCoy
Message-ID: <970101.011716.EST.DBULLARD@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU>

Whoa! Few people have done more than Doug DeMaw to promote interest in QRP. He and Ade Weiss sure got me hooked!

DeMaw and McCoy no doubt have their shortcomings, technical and otherwise. When they or the ARRL err, they should be (or should have been) held accountable.

I just hate to see them painted with such a broad (and wire bristled at that) brush. I think of those guys as my friends and I have never met them.

Happy New Year!

72,

Don (Curly) WA4IML Athens, GA

email: dbullard@uga.cc.uga.edu

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: internet!Lehigh.EDU!listproc
Subject: Error Condition Re: a17fs/kh6 011447zJan97 Off the air for now.

We are sorry, but this system sensed the following request which may have been inadvertently sent to list qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU:

SIGNALS

If your posting was intentional, please accept our apologies and resend your mail message, making sure you do not include anything that may look like a request in the first line of the body of the actual message. If this was

indeed a request please resend it to listproc@Lehigh.EDU
Your entire message is copied below.

>From jlarsen@attmail.com Wed Jan 1 14:57:16 1997
Received: from nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU ([128.180.1.26]) by fidoii.cc.lehigh.edu with
ESMTP id <35310-17003>; Wed, 1 Jan 1997 09:57:11 -0500
Received: from orau.or.br.np.els-gms.att.net (orau.or.br.np.els-gms.att.net
[199.191.129.137])
by nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU (8.8.4/8.8.4) with SMTP
id JAA212665 for <grp-l@lehigh.edu>; Wed, 1 Jan 1997 09:56:58 -0500
Date: Wed, 01 Jan 1997 14:56:21 +0000
From: jlarsen@attmail.com (James H Larsen)
Received: from jlarsen by attmail; Wed Jan 1 14:56:21 GMT 1997
Phone: +1 907 264 7395
Fax-Phone: +1 907 264 7844
Subject: al7fs/kh6 011447zJan97 Off the air for now.
To: grp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: Text/Plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-ID: <jlarsen0011456210>

Signals fading. I went qrt at 1447z.

OK, tonight I will operate 7.041+- from 1000z-1300z 2 Jan. Maybe longer if
we have any luck.

This is sorta like Alaska. I can hear better than I am heard.

So...midnight to ,3:00 am or longer tonight. I am going back to bed now.

73,
Jim

From owner-grp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: w77kxb@juno.com (William Harris)
Subject: [7666] Re: First HF antenna advice sought
Message-ID: <19970101.121621.4855.2.w77kxb@juno.com>

Hello Ed:

A simple antenna, that works, is a inverted "L" approximately 135
degrees long for the lowest frequency of use, working against a couple of
counterpoise wires of 90 to 135 degrees in length. Your 120 will feed
directly into a 90 degree wire and every 180 degrees beyond that. So if

you cut a 70 foot wire (F.S.) for 3.5, it will again see something close to 50 ohms just above the 30 meter band where it will be $3/4$ waves long for that freq. A tuning network would be advisable for 30 meter operation. If you have a tuner, then cut the 80 section for $3/8$'s (135 deg.) length. That would be a little less than 105 ft for 3.5 mcs. (sorry, I still like cycles). Adding a couple (min) radials (90 deg) for the other bands of interest would enhance the signal. The above lengths are for free space. Good place to start if your going to be cutting wire. Also, don't forget to include your ground lead length. That plus the antenna length should equal the above recommended lengths. A inverted L will fit well between your two supports. Keep the vertical portion away from the metal support. I would estimate about 15 feet.

There you go. It's simple, cheap and easy to erect. As they say, "Works fine, last a long time".

Gud luck and Happy New Year.

Bill Harris W7KXB
Mesa, Az

n Wed, 1 Jan 1997 11:25:53 -0600 jacobsen@mail.wiscnet.net (Ed Jacobsen) writes:

>Just read Cebic's "Tuners: A little perspective", about getting an
>antenna
>up and operating to the max, but then to start asking questions and
>trying
>to understand all that there is to be known about antennas, feedlines,
>and
>tuners. etc. Couldn't agree more.

>

> So I try to apply it to myself. My recently acquired Kenwood
>TS120S
>sits on a shelf above my well used 2m rig, impatiently awaiting an
>antenna.
>Reading the ARRL Antenna Handbook doesn't seem to help in choosing
>which
>antenna to put up. So on this cold New Year's eve, I seek advice from
>this
>good group.

>

>My conditions:

> - For the time being it will be listening only: I'm still no-code
>Tech;

> - Live in the woods, much space, mostly wooded with tall pines,
>on edge
>of lake, no antenna ordinances;

> - Have RS 30' 3-section tower next to shack, with Ringo Ranger
>atop;

> - Have 45' tower, 135' from shack, with rotor and TV antenna
>atop;
> - Ultimate radio goals: DX, and low power for USA;
> - Prefer purchase as limited time for constructing one.
>what suggestions are forthcoming?
>Ed
>
> - - -
>Ed Jacobsen
>4900 Dake Road
>Webster WI 54893, U.S.A.
>phone/fax (715)349-2761
>KB9KJE
>
>
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "William R. Colbert" <v31xe@dzdn.com>
Subject: [7644] Re: fox
Message-ID: <32CA9BA9.73C5@dzdn.com>

Please excuse the bandwidth - trying to get to Ernie and it keeps
bouncing.

>
> Hi Ernie, sure enjoyed working you the other night - nice signal,
> even on my QRP+. Saw your updated posting of the log info and I
> think there is one more correction - at 0123 you worked W6ZS, Pete -
> I think that is Pete Hoover, W6ZH. Have a very Happy New Year and
> hope to work you again soon.
> Ray
>
> --
> 72/73, Ray Colbert, W5XE, SOWP 1064M
> (also af852@rgfn.epcc.edu)
> El Paso, Texas

--
72/73, Ray Colbert, W5XE, SOWP 1064M
(also af852@rgfn.epcc.edu)
El Paso, Texas

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: kd1jv@juno.com (Steven Weber)
Subject: [7675] Re: FW: Audio Amp help
Message-ID: <19970101.162923.8047.0.KD1JV@juno.com>

>I'm trying to complete a simple LM386 audio amp circuit. This one is
>I make the connections with my input being the audio output from a
>QRP rig (OHR Explorer) and the out put from the amp driving an 8 ohm
speaker. This isn't rocket science, but the darn thing is very
distorted!

>

Hi Dan,

Couple of things. Most likely the distortion is because your over driving
the LM386. Especialy if you added the extra gain cap across pins 1 and 8.
It doesn't take much to drive this chip and with the extra cap, the gain
is pretty high.

The other problem is that the LM386 is not a very powerful amp, 500 mw or
so. chances are good the OHR rig all ready has a 386 in it, and using one
to drive another isn't going to give you any more volume, unless the amp
in the rig is seriously being under driven.

I get a kick out of these " audio power booster" projects using the
LM386 we see now and again. Often the the 386 that's added has less
power than the amp in the radio already!

A better choice if you want more power is the LM380-14, which will give 2
watts of power. This chip is a little harder to find, but it can be
gotten from Mouser and Digi-key.

Also, there are a lot of audio amp kits for 15 -20 bucks that will put
out 10 -20 watts. Check the kit section of JDR Microdevices or a generic
electronics hobby magazine. These use an audio amp like the one found in
car stereo's and cheap boom boxes, etc. In fact if you have a boom box or
such thing around that's got a broken something or other on it, cut the
audio amp and associated parts off the circuit board and use that.

When driving an external amp from one already in a rig, use an 8-10 ohm
resistor across the speaker outputs from the original rig, and then have
a resistor divider from there (maybe a 10 to 1 reduction) to drive the
external amp. The load resistor will give the amp in the radio a proper
load to drive, and the divider will reduce the drive to a level more

sutable for the input of added amp.

Hope this helps,

de KD1JV Steve in NH

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Chuck (Jack) Hawley" <c-hawley@uiuc.edu>

Subject: [7676] Re: FW: Audio Amp help

Message-ID: <32CAD5C0.4187@uiuc.edu>

DANIEL DOBSON wrote:

> Hey guys,

>

> I'm trying to complete a simple LM386 audio amp circuit. This one is right out
> of the Radio Shack Mini-Engineer Notebook by Forest Mims.

>

> I make the connections with my input being the audio output from a QRP rig
> (OHR Explorer) and the out put from the amp driving an 8 ohm speaker.

> This isn't rocket science, but the darn thing is very distorted!

Is the speaker connected thru a capacitor to isolate the DC if there is
any?

Chuck, KE9UW

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: "Arjen Raateland, SYKE/YV, puh. 09 4030 0457" <Arjen.Raateland@vyh.fi>

Subject: [7682] Re: FW: Audio Amp help

Message-ID: <01IDPUVPRA1W8X0K73@vyh21.vyh.fi>

> >I'm trying to complete a simple LM386 audio amp circuit. This one is

> >I make the connections with my input being the audio output from a

> >QRP rig (OHR Explorer) and the out put from the amp driving an 8 ohm

> speaker. This isn't rocket science, but the darn thing is very

> distorted!

> >

> A better choice if you want more power is the LM380-14, which will give 2

> watts of power. This chip is a little harder to find, but it can be

> gotten from Mouser and Digi-key.

> Also, there are a lot of audio amp kits for 15 -20 bucks that will put
> out 10 -20 watts. Check the kit section of JDR Microdevices or a generic
> electronics hobby magazine. These use an audio amp like the one found in
> car stereo's and cheap boom boxes, etc. In fact if you have a boom box or

It may be helpful to point out that running a single ended push-pull
PA from 13.6 V the maximum output into 8 Ohms is about 2.5 Watts in
the non-existant ideal/theoretical case that the output can swing all
the way from zero to 13.6 V. In practice it must be less than that
unless the load (LS) impedance is lower than 8 Ohms or the supply
voltage is higher.

Sine output RMS = $13.6 / (2 \times \text{SQRT}(2)) \Rightarrow \text{Power} = \text{RMS}^2 / 8$.

This is for the rather typical case where one end of the LS is
grounded.

A way to get more than the maximum 2 W into an 8 Ohms speaker from a
13.6 Volts supply is to use two similar amplifiers in balance, i.e.
with the input signals having 180 deg phase difference and the LS
connected between the two outputs. So in this case both ends of the LS
are floating which may be quite impractical in a rig with a metal
case. Maximum power output would be 4 times what can be had with the
single ended setup, i.e. ca. 10 W.

A set of accessory LS boxes for use with computers that I have use
this balanced output setup, but then again they are designed to run on
just 6 Volts. I've tried them on 12 volts and there was no smoke, but
some heat sinking of the final amp IC would be on order as it
originally has none at all.

Output ratings quoted in advertising texts are sometimes quite
'optimistic'. Don't be lured.

E.g. a 7 watt amplifier from a kit will deliver the advertised 7 watts
only at specific (impractical) values of supply voltage and load
impedance. At the more typical 12 V and 8 Ohms it, too, will be
limited to 2 W output.

My 2 eurocents worth, I hope.

73, OH2ZAZ

Arjen Raateland

---... ---... ---... ---... ---... ---... ---... ---... ---...

Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland

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fax +358 9 4030 0490
.-.-. -.-

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Cecil A Moore <Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.ch.intel.com>
Subject: [7658] Re: Hamstick Dipole

>From: Ken Lopez <kjlopez@earthlink.net>
>... why not use four whips to create two dipoles, mounted on a boom
>to make a helical two element beam? How about someone with antenna
>modelling software doing a workup to determine spacing? Ken, N6TZV

Hi Ken, it would be a waste of time. If it worked, don't you think a lot of people would be using it? On 80m, a Hamstick is 10+ dB down from a Bugcatcher. On 80m, a Bugcatcher is 10+ dB down from a dipole. Why would you want to take 1% of your power and form it into a beam when a dipole would radiate ten times as much power in two directions?

Mobile antennas on the lower HF frequencies are a necessary evil-type compromise. We all are forced to live with low efficiency for mobile installations but it is sheer nonsense to use mobile antennas for fixed operation except maybe for emergencies when there is no time to put up a better antenna. On the lower HF bands, a properly tuned 30ft end-fed antenna will beat the socks off a Hamstick dipole.

With QRP power so meager, why are so many people willing to throw away 99% of it?

73, Cecil, W6RCA, OOTC

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: km1h@juno.com
Subject: [7616] Re: Maxwell, etc.
Message-ID: <19961231.204602.9895.1.km1h@juno.com>

foolish thinking. When I tried to explain the mathematics to a very
>high ranking technical person at the ARRL, he admitted he didn't even
>know what a Z0-match or a Zg-match was. It's hard to prove something
>to someone who has no clue as to what I'm talking about.

High Ranking and Technical Person are mutually exclusive terms at the ARRL today. Besides, any system that could give us both DeMaw and McCoy in the same breath cant be taken too seriously in the real world. We have

Larry and Moe; who is Curly?it must be ARRL; not Wayne Green!
Nominations are open.

The real scary part is that what is there today is even worse!

73.....Carl KM1H

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: DYARNES@aol.com
Subject: [7625] Re: Power Connectors?
Message-ID: <961231235556_711294018@emout18.mail.aol.com>

Power connectors!! Not my favorite subject right now!

The other day my son (home on leave from the good ole' USAF) knocked over my electric keyboard (O.K., so I don't know how to play!) and broke the power connector. "No problem son", I told him, "I'll go find a replacement (by the way, it's a PC board type) and fix it." Should be easy! Sure! You bet!

First of all, there are about 20 screws on the bottom of this keyboard (a Casio). Then you have to unsolder a couple of power leads so that you can unscrew the PC board (another 6 screws or so) and get to the power socket. It turns out this thing has kind of an odd diameter inner conductor. Much smaller than the typical 2.5 or 2.1 size you see at Radio Shack and Electronic City. O. K., so I'll just have to replace both the socket and the connector on the power module to get a match. Sure! You bet!

Not only do they not have the right size power socket anywhere in town, they don't have PC mount sockets period! Anywhere in Tucson as best as I can tell! The ones I might rob from other pieces of old gear here don't match up right on the PC board! Sometimes I think we have too many choices! Here goes another one of my patented patch jobs. I sure wish I lived next door to Mouser!

Oh well, Happy New Year anyway. I'm QRV on 40 meters!

72 de David W7AQK

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7645] Re: Power Connectors?
Message-ID: <970101101538_778647363@emout19.mail.aol.com>

The drool of silent agreement once again...

I have a Sony swl radio (ICF-SWL7600G [it needs more numbers & letters in its model typology]) which takes -- naturally enough -- a special size plug nominally only available from Sony. Thus I get the modified ps from Radio Shack and fix up a wall wart to run it when I ain't using batteries. But I opened it up onct to see if I could put in one of those connectors what I have laying around here...

Fat chance that'd work. Not only is the pinout different on the specialized Sony jack, but the RS jack has a different scheme to "normalize" the connector for battery use of the radio. Back into the case goes the radio and I put a mental note on my forehead to try and find the Sony ps at Dayton this year (1997 already, dudes).

By the way, the SWL7600G is great. It's also the first radio I've seen that appears to have no Ls or Cs in the tuned/tuning circuitry. How dey do dat I dunno. But it's a nice little radio and I can listen to PNG pigen from Radio Australia if I get up early enough and condx are decent. (Another language that my father used to mutter...but that's another story.)

Yupela cumupalong haus bilang me mipela yupela alla seim parti bilang sodering airn meik radio radio alla seim buggerap. Powa jek bilang radio bilang Sony nogat.

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Stanley Wilson <microres@crl.com>
Subject: [7624] Re: QRP ground-wave propagation
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.961231201637.27688A-100000@crl5.crl.com>

On Tue, 31 Dec 1996, Brian.Buydens@usask.ca wrote:

> What is the best band for QRP ground-wave propagation?

This question often shows up on one of the amateur lists. One of my old engineering books has a curve showing ground wave distance vs. frequency. Many factors come into play, but if you consider every thing equal then the lower frequency will have the best ground-wave propagation. So 160 meters would be the best for ground wave. If you only consider the HF bands then 10 meters would be the worst.

de stan AK0B

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [7634] Re: QRP ground-wave propagation
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.970101063840.198E-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

On Tue, 31 Dec 1996, Stanley Wilson wrote:

> On Tue, 31 Dec 1996, Brian.Buydens@usask.ca wrote:
> What is the best band for QRP ground-wave propagation?

> Many factors come into play, but if you consider every thing equal then
> the lower frequency will have the best ground-wave propagation. So 160
> meters would be the best for ground wave. If you only consider the HF
> bands then 10 meters would be the worst.

This is correct for pure ground wave considerations. However, most non-skip contacts made on 10 meters are not ground wave at all, but point-to-point (as we usually think of with VHF). With antennas at either end at the 1 wavelength height (35') facing each other, with the same polarization (usually horizontal), and no blocking terrain, distances of 50-60 miles are not uncommon with very little power, especially CW on that quiet band. Sorting out the exact mode of propagation is often difficult in an actual QSO. Some folks I have worked many times in SC and KY on 10 make me wonder if we had back scatter, point-to-point, a little tropospheric help, or just what.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "Thomas J. Whalen" <whalen@swcp.com>

Subject: [7661] Re: QRP ground-wave propagation

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.970101112059.1719A-100000@kitsune.swcp.com>

On Tue, 31 Dec 1996, Brian.Buydens@usask.ca wrote:

> What is the best band for QRP ground-wave propagation?

>

> Brian.

>

> +-----+
> | Brian Buydens, Computing Services, University of Saskatchewan |
> | email: Brian.Buydens@usask.ca |
> | VE5RDV |
> +-----+

> | A Thought for Christmas: |
> | The only decent thing to do behind someone's back is pat it! |
> +-----+

>

>

Hi Brian, 160 meters has the greatest ground wave. It is a great band for low power local communications. Tom WB5QYT>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Joe Everhart <n2cx@voicenet.com>

Subject: [7649] Re: QSL cards & QSL sources & other artsy stuff

Message-ID: <199701011541.KAA17522@mail3.voicenet.com>

Nil, you wrote, in part:

>crazy type and press collection holding the garage floor down. About 8 tons
>of cast iron & type metal.

>

>I print my own QSLs now. Mix the colors myself from Kelsey Blue or Van Son
>Chrome Yellow & a dash of metalized gold that dries faster 'n the press can
>run.

It's great that you preserved all of the printing equipment you inherited!
Kind of a living memorial, I suppose.

However, I think I now see why you are the way you are :-).

It's gotta be all that lead and them heavy metals in the ink! Lord, you been ingesting that stuff, fella? :-) :-)

Seriously though (what, me serious?), it's great to have you back from your

academic endeavors. Sometimes things get kinda uptight around these parts and your presence is refreshing.

'Course I don't understand nearly halfa whatcha say - do you?

72/73,

Joe E., N2CX

work: jeverhart@cayman.vf.mmc.com

home: n2cx@voicenet.com

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997

From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>

Subject: [7660] Re: RE QRO CB'ers

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.970101101005.3780A-1000000@vortex.sage.dri.edu>

On Tue, 31 Dec 1996 NilsBull@aol.com wrote:

> But you have to choose: Kenworth or Kenwood.

Hey guys & gals.....

Hang on a minute.....don't be bad mouthing all the truck drivers out there. I did that for a few years.....over one million safe miles and etc.

Any group has it's 10%ers, even here on good ole' QRP-L. So while I don't think much of CB and many CBers, it's only the noisy ones you hear.

The other 80 to 90% don't like what's going on any more than we do!

There, now I feel better.....ok, I'll go take my pill and wait for the nurse.....but the last time I waited for a nurse she told me to take off all my clothes and wait in a little room with a cold chair.....she never did show up! :-(

All 3' of snow gone from here now and we have mud and water in it's place. Been cleaning all the ditches.....never knew 3 acres was so big!

Happy New Year to all,

cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
....ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Washoe Lake, Nevada....
....QRP-L #17...ARS #49...NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7673] Re: RE QRO CB'ers
Message-ID: <970101155352_170800409@emout14.mail.aol.com>

It was joke, Monte. I've got friends who have gotten KW hood ornaments and stuck 'em on their home brew amateur band amps. Besides, what with the train companies all but bought up and destroyed by the big automobile companies (as with bus & interurban rail systems that used to carry damn near everyone to work), about all we've got left is trucks and container freight keepin' the local Wal-Mart open 24 hours a day even on New Year's Eve. Hell, even the guy next door -- despite his AK47 collection -- has a couple Navistar tractors in his yard. And except for the occasional guy trying to get to Philly before his girlfriend does, almost every semi-drivin' person with whom I ever had any contact has been concerned with safety and the preservation of his life and the lives of those zippin' by him.

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bill Myers <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
Subject: [7637] Re: SKN
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19970101070723.09c79e62@destin.nfds.net>

At 10:56 PM 12/31/96 -0600, Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97 wrote:

>Well, another SKN has come and gone.

It's not gone yet, according to my copy of QST, it runs from 7PM EST 12/31/96 to 7PM EST 01/01/97. It lasts a full 24 hours this year.

Unfortunately, I had to be somewhere else last night, but I plan to be on 40 today, with my trusty straight key blazing...

And to think I just finished building a Super CMOS III and an AK-1...

72/73 es Hope all have a Safe and Happy New Year.....

--

Bill Myers KK4KF Grid - EM60rk
FISTS#2390 QRP-L#755 ARCI#9282 scQRP#42 CQC#386
Snail Mail P. O. Box 178 Shalimar, FL 32579
e-mail <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
homepage <http://destin.nfds.net/~bmyers/>
 (Reptiles/Emergency Services/Amateur Radio)
CHECK OUT THE FISTS INTERNATIONAL CW CLUB U. S. HOMEPAGE
<http://n9nvv.qrp.com/~fists> (That's N 9 N V V)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7646] Re: SKN
Message-ID: <970101101539_943941876@emout02.mail.aol.com>

I was there. I really was. On 30 for a while, then on 40 for a while and then on 80 for a while. I even went down to 3985 and poked around for a while. I heard on guy on 40 that might have been SKN'ing it, C03BN. The usual chirp-n-growl signal that seems to come from them parts. Most everybody that I heard -- and there were som phenomenally serious week sigs -- was in a QS0 with someone that I didn't or couldn't hear. I ain't game on busting into a QS0, especially when I know that it's gonna be a lot of that stuff I expect to hear in the hall way the home. You know the deal: "What?! What?!..... Badgers!?!... No!.... What?!... Care for a mint?....What?!" About 1100 pm local I took my meds and had a shot of Yilitequ (pure Eastern Turkistan fire water... good for what ails ye.)

I even had the ol' Soviet hand key a-pumpin' away on the desk. Eventually the meds kicked in -- over the protest of the alcoholic powers of the shot of Yilitequ -- and I started to nod. That was about 1 am local. By that time I was down in the Novice band, where everyone seems to have been hiding all along. But I was too blown to be coherent, let alone remember what I was trying to stay coherent for. I hit the sack around 1:30.

Damn, that was fun. I can hardly wait for next SKN night...one 30 meters... with a 38 Special...

Yeni yiliniz kutlu olsun!

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: "John A. Evans - N3Q00" <jaevans@cos.cst.titan.com>
Subject: [7631] Re: Soldering Equipment
Message-ID: <199701010912.EAA137507@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

> I'm wondering if anyone has experience or recommendations for any of
> the following soldering stations, particularly their adaptation for soldering
> Dennis B. Dolle, NX5W

Dennis et al,

I have used a Weller W-TCP soldering station for years. I bought it while in high school while working at a local electronics distributor. I still use it. I would say the most important thing to maintain is temperature regulation, which some of the simpler Weller stations provide. The tips are thermostat controlled, the base is solid and does not move around (same quality you want in a keyer), and there is a sponge holder in the base. It is also electrically isolated from the power source.

I would suspect there are tons on the surplus market, as I see many when I visit a local junk store from time to time. The tips are widely available, also.

72, n3qoo
john

John A. Evans Chief System Administrator
Office: (719) 528-1800 x164 Titan Client/Server Technologies
Fax: (719) 528-1275 1115 Elkton Dr, Suite 200
email: jaevans@cos.cst.titan.com Colorado Springs, CO 80907-3535

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Dave Fifield <fifield@pacbell.net>
Subject: [7630] RE: TiCK
Message-ID: <32CA10A1.36F9@pacbell.net>

Here's my tuppence worth:

I have had the pleasure of being able to play with one of the prototype TiCK devices in my prototype 38Special for the last week.

IMHO the device is GREAT!!! It really works well, gives nice tight keying, easy speed setting, straight key/paddles select (which allows you to run a straight key into the same jack), tune, the option to swap paddles (dit <-> dah, which is great if, like me, you use thumb for dah!), sidetone on/off and last but not least, iambic mode A/B select.

All this for five bux (ten with the board and other components I gather)!!! What a deal!!! I will be fitting one in each of my rigs that are currently keyerless, plus I will be ordering a few "spares" for the junk box for future rigs.

Quote me: "The TiCK will become the NE602 of keyer chips!"

BTW, I have no connection with Embedded and will not profit one jot from this, I just want to share my pleasurable experience with the TiCK....

72, es HNY, Dave Fifield, KQ6FR

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Ed Tanton <n4xy@avana.net>
Subject: [7665] Re: tick
Message-ID: <3.0.32.19970101140545.0096bc60@tiger.avana.net>

Well, around here they usually lurk in tall grasses and even on drooping tree limb leaves. You really have to put the 'OFF' on all over to get complete protection.

(Sorry-I couldn't help it... Happy New Year!!!)

At 08:53 AM 1/1/97 -0600, Bruce Rattray wrote:
>Where does one get the TICK from?....Cheers - Bruce (VE5RC) QRP-L#886
>"QRP! How sweet it is!"

>
>
>
>
>
>

72/73

Ed Tanton N4XY EMAIL: n4xy@avana.net TEL: (770)579-3933 V/MBX/FAX
189 Pioneer Trail
Marietta, GA 30068-3466

QRP-ARCI#7663 G-QRP#6779 OK-QRP#172 QRP-L#758 AdvRC#140
NORCAL#1779 NCDXF SEDXC

Life Member: ARRL AMSAT IDRA INDEXA QCWA
URL: Coming Sooner or Later

"Think you can, think you can't: either way you're right!" Henry Ford

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [7620] Re: Tuners (long diatribe)
Message-ID: <961231224718_1822262310@emout10.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-12-31 16:05:31 EST, rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net (Roy Boggs) writes:

<< I have now decided that I am entirely inadequate for ham radio operation.
>>

At which point, like all good nostalgia junkies, I go back to the best damn little station that anyone could have even thought of starting out with: A Ten Tec PM2, the matching ATU and the matching SWR meter. Wish I had 'em now... at least the tuner. But then..... Oh Ren...

I got a big jonk of plexiglass pipe in the shack... and tons of teflon covered wire... and some other stuff that I can wind on as spacer.... and then there's them capacitors what I have been collecting for some time now... Build it on a wooden plank with... masonite for front and back panels.... It'll look like some idiots rehab project to remember how the ol' Ten Tec qrp tuner looked/worked.

I think I'll reinvent the wheel. It's gotta be just the most fun.

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

"My troubles all started when they decided I was executive timber..."

Wm.

S. Burroughs

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Bob Kellogg <ae4ic@nr.infi.net>
Subject: [7621] RE: Tuners (long diatribe)
Message-ID: <199701010410.XAA20699@mh004.infi.net>

Roy, I wish I'd said that. My sediments too.

At 03:58 PM 12/31/96 -0500, you wrote:

> One thing is clear: For years all the tuner manufacturers have been pumping
> out T's and telling us they are great for all our needs, yet creeping around
> in the cellar is our wise old Masters of RF whatchamacallit saying
> "Grasshopper, you have been mislead, but first you must learn all there is
> to know about this stuff, and spend a fortune in the process on books and
> hardware, to reinvent the wheel. Then you will just have to decide which is
> best FOR YOU!!"

But, ain't it fun??

CUL,

Bob Kellogg, AE4IC, Greensboro, NC
Prolably, but not nececelery. - Benny Hill

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: PaulKB8N@aol.com
Subject: [7640] Re: Tuners (long diatribe)
Message-ID: <970101094653_1524587856@emout15.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-12-31 16:05:31 EST, rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net (Roy Boggs) writes:

<< Oh, I have also built a PI
from parts from Paul which works very good - great in fact. >>
Thanks for the pitch, Roy. I still have parts with which to build a wide
variety of Pi-Net tuners, anyone out there need anything?

Paul, KB8N

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: Joe Everhart <n2cx@voicenet.com>

>It wasn't a hoax.

Paul,

I KNEW somebody was gonna do it one of these days. The fox hunt pileup chasing you wore out the ionosphere! All that RF concentrated in one small part of the spectrum must have torn a hole in the space-time continuum and the ionosphere leaked out through that gaping hole. Ask Nils to explain it. I'm sure all was revealed to him in a blinding revelation!

Hope that ionized layer has healed itself well enough by now to support the New Years Day beacons!

My luck was the same as many others here on the east coast. Couldn't even hear any of the pileup. What is it with this part of the country? Is it all those european 40 meter broadcast stations wearing out the Heavyside layer for us?

Happy New Year y'all and...

72/73,

Joe E., N2CX

work: jeverhart@cayman.vf.mmc.com

home: n2cx@voicenet.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Wed Jan 1 18:18:58 1997
From: faunt@netcom.com (Doug Faunt N6TQS +1-510-655-8604)
Subject: [7618] Re: [7544] Re: Reciprocal License for Jamaica
Message-ID: <199701010200.SAA00281@netcom23.netcom.com>

It wasn't Jamaica, and I didn't get to operate, but it might be informative.

I just spent a week on South Caicos Island (VP5), and in anticipation, got in touch with the ARRL to get the info about reciprocal licenses. They responded quickly to email, so I sent off a money order for \$42 and copies of our US licenses to the secretary of the radio club, VP5JM, who handles these things, and put together a traveling kit of an IC706, 50 watt switcher supply from TenTec, and pre-cut dipoles for 80, 40/15, 20 and 6. I also got email saying that the license would be waiting at the hotel as requested. Note that VP5JM lives on

Providenciales, the government headquarters is on Grand Turk and I was staying on South Caicos. It turns out, mail between the islands is very sporadic and slow. I got email from the secretary saying that she'd received the application and that it should all happen as requested.

I carried the radio in my carry-on, wrapped in clean socks and underwear, and had no problems at Customs, and eventually we got to South Caicos and our hotel. No license. Called VP5JM, and she's in Florida for Christmas.

I finally talked to her on the way out. She said it would have been OK to operate, that she was going to get the document from the president of the club the next day, and she was sorry, but things moved slowly.

It would have been useful if I had known of someone on South Caicos to get in touch with. It would have been useful to know that local custom would allow the operation, since I did the paperwork. It would have been useful to have called VP5JM a day or two in advance.

BTW, I really want to put a Cascade in a Pelican box with a tuner and battery, but the IC706 and paraphernalia took less space and weighed less than the diving gear.

I also have a UK B license (VHF and up), so put out a CQ or two on 6M using the CEPT privileges of that license, but 6 wasn't open when I tried. I'm going to try to pass the Morse Test in the UK this spring.

I think it's important to follow the rules and be polite in other countries.

73, doug